

## **PROPOSAL F2003-23**

### **Existing regulation: Southeast Alaska Area - Steelhead Trout**

*§\_\_\_\_.27(i)(13)(iv ) You may take steelhead trout on Prince of Wales Island only under the terms of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The annual harvest limit is two fish, 36 inches or larger. You may use only a dip net or rod and reel with artificial lure or fly. You may not use bait.*

### **Proposed regulation: Southeast Alaska Area - Steelhead Trout**

*§\_\_\_\_.27(i)(13)(iv ) You may take steelhead trout on Prince of Wales Island only under the terms of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The annual harvest limit is two fish, 36 inches or larger. You may use only a dip net or rod and reel with artificial lure or fly. You may not use bait.*

**Reason for changing the regulation:** Under the current regulations, only fish over 36 inches may be kept. Fish this large are very rare on Prince of Wales Island. A person may have to dipnet and handle many hundreds of fish in order to obtain a legal sized fish to eat. If steelhead are to be allowed to be taken for subsistence, then there should be no size limit. Let us eat a fish! Are we going to teach our children that it is OK to harass hundreds of steelhead with a dipnet? To then watch them toss and turn wildly in the net until we can get our hands on them to subdue them long enough to determine that indeed they are not a “keeper.” Then unceremoniously dump them back in the river with all their protective coatings of slime removed from their bodies to die of disease weeks later. If that is what you want, then the rules and regulations are sound and should remain as is. This change should be made in order for us to simply harvest and eat a fish without handling and then releasing a lot of fish.

**Effect of change on fish or shellfish populations:**

**Effect of change on subsistence users:**

**Additional Information:**

**Proposed by:** Harley “Doug” Black, Thorne Bay